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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/825,332 Confirmation No. : 7895
First Named Inventor : Norbert ERHARD
Filed : April 16, 2004
TC/A.U. : 3752
Examiner : T. McGraw

Docket No. : 028972.53933US
Customer No. : 23911

Title : Spray Head for a Spraying Tool

REPLY

Mail Stop AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding ground of rejection are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks, which are submitted in response to the non-final Office Action dated May 18, 2007.

Claims 1-9 and 18 were previously canceled. Claims 10-17 and 19 are presented for further examination.

As an initial matter, Applicants gratefully acknowledge indication by the Examiner that claims 11-13 and 17 contain allowable subject matter.

The rejection of claims 10, 14-16 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Wollin, US 5,916,367 in view of Obrecht, US 4,082,324 is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 10 relates to a spray head for a spraying tool. The spray head includes a plurality of modular spray units and a plurality of coupling elements. Each of the spray units has an end and a plurality of passages for the media to be sprayed, wherein the end of each spray unit has a chamber. The coupling elements, which include a passage and a recess having a

tapered surface, communicate with the passages and reach into both chambers at the ends of the spray units that are joined. The spray head further includes a clamp that engages the tapered surface and presses the joined spray units together. Thus, in an assembled spraying head, the media to be sprayed flows from a passage in one spray unit to a passage of an adjacent spray unit via the passage in a coupling element that joins the respective spray units together.

Whether considered independently or in combination, the foregoing structural features are not taught or suggested by either cited reference. Pointedly, neither Wollin nor Obrecht disclose a coupling element having a passage, as required by claim 10.

The Office Action cites to the threaded bolts or Allen screws 24 of Wollin as reading upon the claimed coupling element (see, e.g., column 6, lines 1-6 and Figure 2). Further, the Office Action alleges that these coupling elements of Wollin include a passage. This is incorrect. In contrast to the assertion made in the Office Action, Wollin merely discloses that individual plates are held together by threaded bolts 24 (Allen screws) and alignment pins 25. There is no teaching or suggestion that the threaded bolts 24 or alignment pins 25 include the required passage.

This deficiency of Wollin is not remedied by Obrecht, which merely discloses threaded fasteners 61, 62 that pass through clamping elements 54, 56 and into threaded bores 64, 66 (see, e.g., column 4, lines 1-11 and Figures 1 and 3). As with Wollin, the fasteners of Obrecht do not include a passage and thus

cannot communicate with passages of the spray units that are joined. In the apparatus of both Wollin and Obrecht, the coupling elements are arranged outside of the media flow passages that pass through the spray units. The coupling elements of present claim 10, in contrast, include a passage that communicates with passages in the spray units that are joined together.

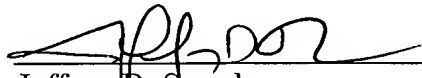
In view of the foregoing, the application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, and prompt favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #028972.53933US).

Respectfully submitted,

August 15, 2007



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